

# District hosts USACE-wide Information Management Conference

by Joan Mier

Albuquerque District hosted the Corps-wide Director of Information Management Conference June 19-22. Conference attendees discussed a variety of issues including updates to Windows 2000, buying more powerful mainframe computers for regional data centers, the new CEFMS II, GIS, Information Technology career program and the new Information Technology management 2210 series, according to Glenn Watts, chief of the District's Information Management Office.

Then South Pacific Division Commander Brig. Gen. Peter Madsen was on hand to give opening remarks to conference attendees. He said it was easy to become frustrated with the rapidly changing technology and that the challenge is to harness our capability and use it to benefit the organization.

Madsen spoke about the strategic goals of the Corps' Vision and commented that Information Management was a key factor in all of them.

"Information is right in the middle of your job title.



Photo by Derrick Johnson

**Then South Pacific Division Commander Brig. Gen. Peter Madsen addresses attendees on the first day of the conference.**

You will all play a large role in helping us strategically communicate better in the future," he said.

Another great challenge in the information technology business is learning how to invest, Madsen said.

***"There is always something new around the corner . . . The rate of change just keeps getting faster."***

"What hardware or software do we bring in? Information technology is big bucks with a huge impact on our budget and our people," he

said. "We need you experts to advise commanders on these things."

Madsen also said that another great challenge is protecting our systems and information from hackers.

"There is always something new around the corner in the technology business," he said. "You've got to make decisions even though you may not have all the information you'd like to have at the time. The rate of change just keeps getting faster."

Workshops were held to discuss these and other issues including financial strategy, knowledge management, computer security, and a strategy for the future of the Information Technology workforce, Watts said.

Approximately 35 conference attendees come to the District Headquarters to check out the new Enterprise Management System Pilot Test, which allows software distribution via the LAN, such as asset inventory, remote control, and help desk. Albuquerque District was the first Corps district to have this system completely operational, Watts said.

"The conference is very valuable because it allows us to understand what is coming in the future of information technology and how to take a team approach in solving information technology and management challenges," he said.○